

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 24 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicant(s) have attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheet(s)" Figures 9-11 have been designated by the legend --Prior Art--.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kyoichi (JP No. 06227381). This rejection is respectfully traversed. New Claim 24 has been added to reinstate the subject matter of Claim 4 (previously cancelled). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

With regard to the Kyoichi reference, that reference teaches using resistance welding to fuse metals in a fashion that the Examiner has construed as a "plastic flow." In this regard, the Examiner is reading the "nickel sleeve" described in the Kyoichi reference as serving the function of a caulking member. However, in contrast to the Kyoichi teaching, the Applicants' invention effects a plastic flow of the caulking member by applying stress from the outside of the caulking member. Applicants are providing herewith dictionary definitions of "welding" and "plastic flow" for the Examiner's consideration.

Accordingly, in order to more fully distinguish the Applicants' invention from Kyoichi, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that plastic flow of a caulking member is performed by applying stress from the outside of the caulking member. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 now fully distinguishes over the art of record.

Turning now to Applicants' independent Claim 5, the issue here appears to be with regard to the term "integrally formed." The Examiner appears to take the position that Kyoichi teaches integral formation because (according to the Examiner's interpretation) once the Kyoichi external lead and lead wire are welded together they are then "integrally formed and act as one wire."

In order to obviate this rejection and more fully distinguish the Applicants' invention, Claim 5 has been amended to recite that "integrally formed" is from a continuous and common piece of material. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment fully distinguishes the Applicants' invention from the Kyoichi reference.

Finally, with regard to Claim 4 (now cancelled), the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of Claim 4 can be reinstated by a subsequent Amendment that presents the subject matter as a new claim with a new claim number. Accordingly, Applicants have added new claim 24 to this application.

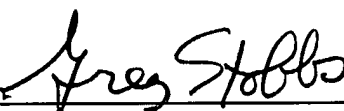
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office

Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. The Applicants have requested Applicants' attorney to conduct a telephonic interview with the Examiner for the purpose of clarifying any matters that may be unclear with respect to the foregoing Amendment. If the Examiner believes that such telephonic interview would help facilitate and advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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